



From The Press in Japan by NPC Inc.

November 1, 1999 Nikkei Sangyo (The Major Japanese Industrial Newspaper)

Kaneka starts operation of a-Si plant

Kaneka Solar Tech, a subsidiary of Kaneka, has started its a-Si production in the new plant in Hyogo, Japan. The production capacity of the new plant is 20 MW per year, estimating its sales at 5 billion yen (\$48 million).

Kaneka increases its production capacity to 40 MW in year 2000 and estimating its sales at 10 billion yen (\$96 million).

November 19, 1999 Nikkei Sangyo

Kobe Steel launches solar power system with ASE modules

Kobe Steel launches PV system jointly with ASE GmbH. ASE solar modules seem to be cheaper than the modules made by Japanese manufacturers by about 10 to 20%. Because ASE module has 300 W power output which is twice as much as the conventional modules, less installation time and less installation cost are expected.

Kobe Steel plans to market its PV systems totaling 1,000 kW in year 2000. Kobe Steel has already received the orders of PV systems as 45 kW system for a condominium and 20 kW for a rescue facility. Kobe Steel is seeking to market not only to mid to large systems but also small ones for residential rooftop application.

Japanese PV market in 1999 is estimated at 70 MW, 70 billion yen (\$670 million).